

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-75. Canceled.

76. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a nucleotide sequence encoding the fibrinogen-like domain of human TIE-2 ligand consisting of nucleotides 1197-1844 of SEQ ID NO: 5; and
- (b) a nucleotide sequence which, due to the degeneracy of the genetic code, differs from the nucleotide sequence of (a) and which encodes the fibrinogen-like domain of human TIE-2 ligand.

77. (previously presented) A vector which comprises a nucleic acid molecule of claim 76.

78. (previously presented) A vector according to claim 77, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to an expression control sequence that directs its expression in a host cell.

79. (previously presented) A vector according to claim 77, which is a plasmid.

80. Canceled.

81. (currently amended) A host-vector system for the production of a polypeptide, wherein the host-vector system which comprises the vector of claim 78 in a host cell.

82. (previously presented) A host-vector system according to claim 81, wherein the host cell is a bacterial, yeast, insect or mammalian cell.

83. (previously presented) A method of producing a polypeptide which comprises growing cells of the host-vector system of claim 82, under conditions permitting production of the polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide so produced.

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84-98. Canceled.

99. (previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 76 further comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding an immunoglobulin constant region.

100. (previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 99, wherein the immunoglobulin constant region is the Fc portion of human IgG1.